

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02

DOT-00 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-03 INT-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TGEN, ENRG, NO

SUBJ: ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY REQUEST HELP ON VISIT OF OIL
SPILL CLEANUP TEAM

REF: OSLO 3777

1. ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE ASKED EMBASSY
IF US CAN ASSIST TWO MINISTRY OFFICIALS MEET WITH APPRO-
PRIATE AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN US
CONCERNING OIL SPILL CLEANUP. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROPOSED
VISIT WILL BE MADE BY NORWEGIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON BUT
EMBASSY AGREED TO SEEK ASSISTANCE OF US AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY
EPA IN ORGANIZING ITINERARY WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF THREE
OR FOUR DAYS IN WASHINGTON AND STOPS IN OTHER PLACES,
INCLUDING CALIFORNIA. NORWEGIANS WILL PAY TRAVEL COSTS.

2. EMBASSY BELEIVES THIS PROVIDES GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO
HELP AND POSSIBLY INFLUENCE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY'S
THINKING AND ORGANIZATION ALONG LINES WHICH COULD
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FACILITATE HARMONIZATION AND COLLABORATION IN COM-

BATTING OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILLS, PARTICULARLY SINCE NORWEGIANS SEEM TO BE TAKING INCREASING INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD IN NORTH SEA.

3. MINISTRY PLANS TO SEND TEAM OF DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTOR OLAV CARLSON AND SENIOR ENGINEER ARNE J. FLIKKE TO US FROM FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 5 ON FACT FINDING TOUR TO ASSIST MINISTRY IN CARRYING OUT NEW RESPONSIBILITY RECENTLY ACQUIRED FOR (1) SETTING DISCHARGE STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRY RELATING TO OIL AND OIL INSTALLATIONS AND (2) ESTABLISHING ORGANIZATION IN ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY TO COMBAT MAJOR SPILLS OF OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FROM SHIPS AND OFFSHORE RIG BLOWOUTS. TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTRY ESPECIALLY ON MINISTERIAL REORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH SPILLS FROM SHIPS AND RIGS, DURING ON- AND OFF-SHORE LOADING, AND IN HARBORS AND LAKES. VISITORS WILL ALSO WANT TO SEE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE LATEST TECHNOLOGY FOR PREVENTION AND CLEANUP, SUCH AS SEAGOING SKIMMERS AND BOOMS AND THE LIKE.

4. TRIP MIGHT WELL IN PART PARALLEL VERY SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR STOLTENBERG GROUP WHICH VISITED US LAST SEPTEMBER (OSLO 3777). EMBASSY BELIEVES TEAM SHOULD MEET WITH COAST GUARD AND EPA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE MINISTRY ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARD SETTING, ENFORCEMENT AND SPILL PREVENTION AND CLEANUP. TEAM WOULD BENEFIT FROM DISCUSSION OF OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH THESE AGENCIES, TOO. DISCUSSIONS WITH CEQ ON ITS REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF OFFSHORE DRILLING WOULD BE VERY VALUABLE. FLIKKE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WHAT USGS IS DOING IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD. EPA AND COAST GUARD COULD SUGGEST WHERE TEAM COULD SEE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY. FLIKKE HAS INVITATION TO VISIT PRIVATE FIRM CALLED PACIFIC POLLUTION CONTROL IN SAN FRANCISCO AND THUMS ISLAND OIL FIRM FACILITIES IN LOS ANGELES, BUT VISITORS WILL BE AMENABLE TO AND GRATEFUL FOR ANY SUGGESTIONS. SYRNE

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